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Message from the Mayor

As we speak, the future of Southeast Washington is being built, and dreams are being realized.

Last week, I had the distinct honor to break ground at the future home of the Washington Nationals along the Anacostia River at Half and O Streets, Southeast. At the launch of the 2008 season, this state-of-the-art, environmentally friendly ballpark will attract thousands of visitors and spark an economic revival east of the river.

The ballpark will serve as an anchor for a sweeping revitalization that will include development such as hotels, restaurants and office space. The revitalization will bring new jobs for District residents and help increase the city's tax base and help fund our vital social services.

Imagine the construction site in a few years. Fathers, mothers, sons and daughters will be grabbing hot dogs outside the ballpark. Residents and visitors will enjoy the nearby Anacostia Riverwalk. The sounds of America's pastime will boom from the Washington Nationals' new home. The exterior façade of the 41,000-seat ballpark will employ an innovative use of building materials including glass, natural stone, structural steel and concrete, a beautiful addition to the Washington skyline.

As I've been saying for nearly two years, the Nationals' new ballpark is really about the rebirth of the Anacostia Waterfront. It's about creating thousands of jobs and new economic development. It's about luring visitors from our metropolitan area and around the world to spend money in the District. This \$70 million of additional revenue each year will translate into community benefits across our city.

The ballpark's location on the waterfront will be the anchor for developing hundreds of acres of vacant or underutilized land, creating new opportunities for local small businesses and retailers. It will put the Anacostia River back on the map – a river I have always believed could become one of our country's treasures. We are one step closer to making this a reality.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you on Opening Day in 2008 to personally experience the rebirth of Southeast and witness the future of our great city.

For more information about progress on the Nationals' new ballpark, please visit: <http://dcsec.com/>



AGENCY WEBSITES

Department of Human Services

Office of Tax and Revenue

Department of Parks and Recreation

Department of Employment Services

Metropolitan Police Department

Office of Boards and Commissions

Commission on the Arts and Humanities

LINKS TO OTHER WEBSITES

Hands on DC

DC Convention and Tourism

DC Public Library

Theresa D. Lewis Day

During my weekly press briefing on May 3, I took a moment to recognize the contributions of an outstanding District government employee — Theresa Lewis — who died recently. Theresa's family joined me at the press briefing, and I was honored by their presence. Theresa was a part of our District government family for 28 years — all but two of those years at our DC Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA).

Her graduation in the first class of the Center for Excellence in Municipal Management at the George Washington University as a Certified Public Manager served her well as she progressed to successively more responsible leadership positions in the agency. Her positions at DCRA included Management Analyst, Executive Assistant to the Director, Business License Program Manager, Administrator of the Housing Regulation Administration, Deputy Director for Program Operations, and most recently, Chief of Staff.

Theresa was a woman of impeccable character. She was a tough negotiator, and she had an amazing grasp of the intricacies of our city's building codes and the laws and regulations governing DCRA. Under DCRA Director Patrick Canavan, Theresa helped to lead the agency's most recent effort to realign its organizational structure with its fundamental mission and purpose.

Theresa's encyclopedic knowledge of building codes and of the laws and regulations governing the agency's authority is deep and extensive and her experience in regulatory administration made her a natural to lead the agency's most recent effort to realign the organizational structure with its fundamental mission and purpose.

Somehow after 60 hour work weeks, she managed to find time for a round of golf and a bucket of chicken livers. Her influence and her contributions to the agency's growth and development and to the citizens, businesses and communities she has served are profound, immeasurable and lasting.

I presented a proclamation declaring May 3 Theresa D. Lewis Day in the District, and I called upon all of the residents of our city to celebrate her life and contributions to our city on that day.

Journey to Africa — Ghana and Senegal

As you're reading this, I'm in the process of leading a coalition of District business owners, community leaders, and government officials to Ghana and Senegal in West Africa. The trip will be successful if we can accomplish three primary goals. First, we want to open doors for possible trade opportunities that could benefit people here and in Africa.

Second, we want to share best practices about government with government leaders from Senegal and Ghana so that they can use the District as a model for everything from public works functions to economic development. Finally, we want to encourage a cultural exchange because of the longstanding historical ties that many African Americans have with Senegal and Ghana, among other nations.

During the trip, the delegation is meeting with African officials who deal with tourism, housing, economic development, municipal infrastructure and information technology. There will also be a signing ceremony in Accra, Ghana making it an official sister city to Washington.

This trip is an important statement about our respect for Africa and our belief that we should maintain a global perspective when it comes to trade and our economy. I believe that tourism is a cornerstone of our city's economy but I also believe that many emerging African nations offer excellent opportunities for American businesses. Our plan is modeled on similar US-Africa trade missions undertaken by the state of Maryland and the US Department of Commerce.

The delegation includes: myself; Mrs. Diane Simmons Williams; Cora Masters Barry, CEO, Recreation Wish List Committee; Donella Brockington, Vice President of Business Development, ACS State and Local Solutions; Alfreda Davis, Chief of Staff to Mayor Williams; C. Jack Ellis, Mayor, Macon, Georgia; DC Councilmember Jack Evans; William Hanbury, President and CEO, Washington DC Convention and Tourism Corporation; William Howland, Director, DC Department of Public Works; Stan Jackson, Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development; Olabisi Jagun, Howard University Hospital; Jerry Johnson, General Manager, DC Water and Sewer Authority; John Johnson, Founder, Verbal Gymnastics; Koby Koomson, former Ambassador of Ghana to the US; Michael Levett, President and CEO, Citizens Development Corps; Dorothy McSweeney, Chair, DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities; William McSweeney, Presidential Trustee, John F. Kennedy Center; Celia Maxwell, Assistant Vice President for Health Affairs and Director of the Womens Health Institute, Howard University Hospital; Constance Newman, Special Counsel for African Affairs, The Carmen Group; Lauren Vaughan Pearson, CEO, The Kerry S. Pearson LLC; Beverly Perry, Senior Vice President, Pepco Holdings, Inc.; Eugene Pinder, Business Manager; Baltimore/Washington Laborers' District Council; Michael C. Rogers, Executive Vice President, Corporate Services, MedStar Health; Councilmember Carol Schwartz; Christine Warnke, Senior Government Affairs Advisor; Hogan and Hartson; and Charles Williams, Senior Associate, The Carmen Group.

In an effort to minimize the impact on taxpayers, I had the trade mission paid for by private underwriters.



BRC Alerts

DCLMPC Partnership
Works!

DCOA Spotlight on Aging

DHS Outreach

DISB DC Financial
Gateway Express

OAG Inter Alia...

OAPIA Updates

OPGD Grant Funding
Alerts

Building the Future of Our Public Libraries

A city library system can serve as the cornerstone to education for all residents, whether you're an elementary school student still learning the basics or an adult wanting to learn and acquire a new skill. That's why it's incredibly important that we redouble our efforts to restore and enhance the District's public libraries.

Last week, I introduced the Library Transformation Act of 2006, legislation to approve the financing of a new Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library to be built on the site of the former convention center. Today is an ideal time to begin the important conversation on rehabilitating our library system. There is strong public support for this endeavor, and the White House has given us unprecedented assistance to meet our goals.

After working with Councilmember Kathy Patterson, Chair of the Education, Libraries and Recreation Committee, I introduced stand-alone legislation in order to have more opportunity to present my vision for the new central library and to address questions that have arisen from the Council and the general public. I would like to move forward quickly with this proposal so that it is considered and brought to a vote before the Council goes on its summer recess.

I have already ensured funding to ensure the renewal of our library branches, but a central library will serve as the anchor to the community for those wanting to enrich their lives through learning and education.

A new Martin Luther King, Jr. library will create a new world-class downtown neighborhood surrounded by office and retail space. By also adding civic uses and public space to the library, it will be a hub for all residents in the District to enjoy. Some say renovating the current MLK Library is more appropriate. Unfortunately, the price of completing this is just as expensive as creating a new center at the former convention center site, but without the added incentives of revitalizing the downtown area.

I recently had the opportunity to visit the Idea Stores in London, a revolutionary approach to library development and rehabilitation that could be of great promise for our urban environment. These state-of-the-art facilities combine standard library lending services with adult education classes, career support, training, meeting areas, computer labs, video walls, cafes, and arts and leisure with a customer-driven approach.

The District can quite possibly emulate this model to create community centers that blend the standard library mold and combine it with facilities that will benefit the city's youth and adults, creating even more vibrant and active communities for our residents.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in the District

Last week I announced that I have designated May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in the District. For more than 20 years, the month of May has been designated by Congress to honor and celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage.

The Asian Pacific Islander community is a vital and vibrant part of our city. To celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, I urge everyone to take advantage of a number of special events being held throughout the city during May.

These events include:

- Photo Exhibition at the Chinatown Community Cultural Center at 616 H Street, NW, Suite 201 entitled "Our Culture, Our Community" featuring photographs of the Asian and Pacific Islander community as seen through the eyes of Asian youth. The Photo Exhibition runs from May 15 to May 31, Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10 am – 4 pm. Free.
- Information and health fair featuring free health screenings, legal counseling, and information in major Asian languages on educational resources, housing, employment, and information from more than 30 direct-service agencies. The Fair takes place on May 25 from 10 am to 3 pm at the Martin Luther King Jr., Memorial Library at 9th and G Streets, NW. Free.
- Cultural Heritage celebration on May 25 at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library from 5:30 pm to 8 pm.
 - 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm: Asian & Pacific American cultural performances by diverse Asian ethnic groups.
 - 6:30 pm - 8 pm: An award ceremony to celebrate Asian heritage and commend outstanding individuals for their work in the community. This event is jointly sponsored by the Mayor's office and the DC Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs. I plan to present the awards. Ethnic food and refreshments will be provided by local restaurants.

For more information please call the Mayor's Office on Asian & Pacific Islander Affairs at (202) 727-3120.



District Activities



Mayor Williams presents a proclamation to actor and lawyer Hill Harper for his work and dedication to help make a difference in the lives of the District's young people. The audience included a group of young African American males from the Benning Road corridor in Ward 7. Hill Harper, an accomplished film, television and stage actor, stars in the hit CBS drama series *CSI: NY*.



Mayor Anthony Williams, the Ted Lerner family and other partners, Team Manager Frank Robinson, members of the DC Sports and Entertainment Commission (DCSEC), and members of the DC Council broke ground at the site of the future home of the Washington Nationals at Half and O Streets, SE, which will be the infield of the new park. Last year, after a 34-year absence, Major League Baseball returned to the nation's capital at historic RFK Memorial Stadium.



Mayor Williams tours Elmina Castle in Cape Coast, Ghana, and meets with Accra Mayor Stanley Nii Adjiri Blankson and other local officials.

Community News

- [Mayor Praises Davis and Norton for Cooperation on Voting Rights Bill](#)
- [Mayor Expresses Disappointment with Army Decision to Turn Over Walter Reed to Federal Agencies](#)
- [Council Vote Reducing MRDDA Budget Will Seriously Endanger Services to the Disabled](#)

Upcoming Events

[View All News Releases](#)

5/14–5/20 National Women's Health Week

For more information, visit the [Department of Health](#) website.

5/21–5/27 Severe Summer Weather Awareness Week

For more information, visit the [DC Emergency Management Agency](#) website.

6/3 Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation National Race for the Cure

For further information, including registration forms, visit the [National Race for the Cure](#) website.

